

## Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-06 FEA-01 INT-05 COME-00

/029 W

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R 200835Z APR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8611

UNCLAS TOKYO 5800

DEPT PASS TO DOT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OTRA, JA

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN COOPERATION: TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

REFS: (A) TOKYO 5265, (B) STATE 037129, (C) TOKYO 4256,

(D) STATE 082657

1. EMBOFF MET WITH 12 MOT OFFICIALS ON APRIL 19 TO DISCUSS MOT REACTIONS TO EMBASSY LETTER CONTAINING APPLICABLE PORTIONS OF REFTEL D. MOT NOW PREPARED TO DISCUSS TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY TOPICS WITH U.S EXPERT TEAM ON UNDERSTANDING THAT PURPOSE OF VISIT IS INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS TECHNICAL TOPICS AND GENERAL EXPLORATION OF AREAS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT U.S. SIDE NOT EXPECTING TO REACH FORMAL DECISIONS DURING VISIT, BUT WILL SIMPLY WISH TO SOUND OUT JAPANESE SIDE ON PRIORITIES, DEFINE TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, AND GENERALLY EXPLORE SUBJECTS CITED REFTEL D IN ADVANCE OF FORMAL TRIP MEETING.

2. MOT WILLING TO CONSIDER MEETING WITH U.S. TEAM WEEK OF MAY 17. HOWEVER, SINCE THIS EXPECTED TO BE FINAL WEEK OF DIET DELIBERATIONS BEFORE ADJOURNMENT, DEMANDS ON TIME WILL BE QUITE HIGH AND CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS MAY BE UNAVAILABLE. MOT WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH WEEK OF MAY 24 WHEN DIET MATTERS WILL NO LONGER BE PRESSING.

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MOT NOT YET ABLE TO GIVE FINAL ANSWER ON ACCEPTABILITY

OF WEEK OF MAY 17. IF POSSIBLE FOR U.S. TEAM TO DELAY  
UNTIL MAY 24, EMBASSY SUGGESTS DOING SO. MOT MOST  
INTERESTED TO KNOW NUMBER AND PROTOCOL RANK OF U.S. TEAM,  
AND ALSO NUMBER OF DAYS EXPECTED TO BE IN JAPAN.

3. JAPANESE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY TERM QUOTE LOGISTICAL  
MOVEMENTS UNQUOTE IN REFTEL D, PARA 6, AND QUESTIONED IF  
THIS HAS SAME MEANING AS QUOTE INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION  
SYSTEMS UNQUOTE. LATTER TERM UNFAMILIAR TO EMBOFF AND  
HE COULD NOT PROVIDE RESPONSE. CONCERNING QUOTE MASS  
MOVEMENT TECHNOLOGY UNQUOTE FOR HANDLING BULK OIL AND COAL,  
MOT SAID SUCH SYSTEMS ARE WELL ESTABLISHED AND ASK IF U.S.  
IS THINKING OF SOME NEW SYSTEM WHICH WILL REPLACE EXIST-  
ING SYSTEMS. MOT INTEREST IN THIS AREA APPEARS RATHER  
LIMITED, AND JAPANESE NOTED SEVERAL TIMES THAT JAPAN DOES  
NOT HAVE SAME NEED FOR SUCH SYSTEM AS DOES U.S. SINCE  
JAPANESE INDUSTRY LOCATED NEAR COAST AND LONG DISTANCE  
TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM MUCH LESS. UNDERSTANDING OF  
MEANING OF QUOTE SCHEDULED, TRAINLOAD/SHIPLOAD LOGISTICAL  
MOVEMENTS OF BULK MATERIALS UNQUOTE WAS ALSO HAZY, AND  
MOT HAS REQUESTED U.S. SIDE GIVE MORE DETAILED EXPLANA-  
TION OF WHAT IT HAS IN MIND.

4. MOT THINKING ON SUBJECT OF UNIT TRAINS IS FOCUSED ON  
ASPECT OF LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION, AND AS NOTED ABOVE,  
MOT DISCOUNTS VALUE OF DISCUSSING THIS TOPIC SINCE  
JAPANESE INDUSTRY LOCATED NEAR THE COAST AND LONG RANGE  
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS NOT NECESSARY TO SAME EXTENT AS IN  
U.S. JNR, IT WAS STATED, DOES NOT FEEL THERE IS ANY MERIT  
FOR UNIT TRAIN IN JAPAN. EMBOFF SUGGESTED CONCEPT OF UNIT  
TRAIN MIGHT GO BEYOND SIMPLY DISTANCE CONCEPT AND ENCOMPASS  
MONEY-SAVING AND TIME-SAVING TECHNOLOGIES WHICH COULD BE  
OF INTEREST TO JAPAN. AS IN PARA 3 ABOVE, MORE DETAILED  
EXPLANATION OF THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MOT.

5. CONCERNING UNIT TRAIN DISCUSSIONS WITH JNR DELEGATION  
CITED REFTEL D, PARA 3, MOT UNDERSTANDING, AFTER CHECKING  
WITH JNR, IS THAT TWO JNR ENGINEERS VISITED DOT IN 1974  
REPEAT 1974 AND MET WITH DE TERRA. HOWEVER, THIS DISCUSSION  
SAID TO HAVE CENTERED ON QUOTE FINANCIAL MATTERS UNQUOTE.  
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AS FOR UNIT TRAIN DISCUSSION AT THIS MEETING, MOT SAYS U.S.  
SIDE SPOKE AND JAPANESE SIDE JUST LISTENED. HENCE, THEY  
WERE SURPRISED THAT DOT HAD INCLUDED TOPIC ON PROPOSED  
AGENDA.

6. CONCERNING DEEPWATER PORTS, MOT EXPRESSED VIEW  
THAT THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH UJNR MARINE  
FACILITIES PANEL, ALTHOUGH MOT READY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT

WITH U.S. TEAM AND TO PROVIDE SITE VISIT TO JAPANESE DEEPWATER PORT FACILITIES. AGAIN, TERMINOLOGY WAS A PROBLEM. MOT ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF SEVERAL POINTS SUCH AS: (1) IS QUOTE SINGLE POINT MOORING UNQUOTE SAME AS QUOTE SINGLE BUOY MOORING SYSTEM UNQUOTE? (2) WHAT IS DEFINITION OF MONOBUOY? NOT KNOWING TECHNICAL SUBLTIES, WE COULD NOT RESPOND, BUT POINTS SUCH AS THESE CAN BE CLEARED UP EITHER BY FURNISHING SOME WRITTEN INFO IN ADVANCE OR BY BRIEFINGS MADE DURING VISIT.

7. MOT INTERESTED IN HEARING ADDITIONAL U.S. VIES ON TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER HEADING ALTERNATE ENERGY FOR TRANSPORTATION. SPECIFICALLY, IS U.S. SIDE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN LONG-TERM OR SHORT-TERM TIME FRAME? AUTO BUREAU IN MOT IS WORKING ON IMPROVEMENT OF CONVENTIONAL ENGINE SYSTEMS PRIMARILY, RATHER THAN ON ENTIRELY NEW SYSTEMS. HOWEVER, JAPANESE INDICATED INTEREST IN TALKING OVER HYDROGEN ENGINES AND METHANOL APPLICATIONS.

8. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED RATHER DETAILED REPORT ABOVE IN HOPETHAT IT WILL HELP DOT STRUCTURE PLANNED VISIT. THERE APPEARS TO BE NEED FOR CLEAR DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN U.S., ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE WH MOT OFFICIALS WERE NOT EXPERT IN FIELDS PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION BY DOT. DESPITE RATHER NEGATIVE TONE OF COMMENTS FROM JAPANESE SIDE, WE BELIEVE BILATERAL TALKS WILL PROVE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. MOT HAS OBVIOUSLY GIVEN MUCH ATTENTION TO U.S. PROPOSALS AND WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR CURRENT U.S. THINKING ON THESE TOPICS. PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES INITIAL JAPANESE RELUCTANCE TO NEW INITIATIVES FLOWS AS MUCH FROM PROCEDURAL AND CONCEPTUAL FACTORS (INTERNAL BUREAUCRATIC COMPLICATIONS; LANGUAGE PROBLEMS; UNFAMILIARITY WITH MORE UNSTRUCTURED, INFORMAL UNCLASSIFIED

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MODE OF AMERICAN PROBLEM AIRING, ETC.) AS FROM MORE TECHNICALLY RELEVANT FACTORS. SITUATION WOULD BE IMPROVED IN ANY EVENT IF DOT CAN FURNISH WRITTEN MATERIAL ON CONCEPTS IN ADVANCE OF VISIT, THEREBY GIVING JAPANESE OPPORTUNITY TO BE BETTER PREPARED.

9. ACTION REQUESTED:

- A. NAMES, TITLES AND PROTOCOL RANKS OF U.S. TEAM.
- B. HOTEL OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED.
- C. IS WEEK OF MAY 24 ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. TEAM?
- D. ANTICIPATED LENGTH OF STAY IN JAPAN.
- E. INFORMATION TO REPLY TO JAPANESE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS IN ADVANCE OF MEETING AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE.

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## Message Attributes

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